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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1958



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT.

June, 1959.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my thirteenth annual report together with that of the Public Health Inspector upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1958.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 22/58.

The year was uneventful in that there were no epidemics or outbreaks and the main activities of the department were concentrated on routine preventive public health work.

The vital statistics for the district were again satisfactory. The birth rate was 16.88 compared with the provisional rate for England and Wales of 16.4. The death rate was 10.73 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The incidence of infectious diseases was exceptionally low. Only one case of whooping cough was notified compared with 127 last year. Measles also was greatly reduced and followed the normal pattern in which a minor epidemic invariably occurs in alternate years. The number of cases of scarlet fever notified was 27 compared with 15 last year, but all were of a mild type.

Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified but only one case was confirmed, compared with seven last year. Adequate facilities are now available for vaccination against poliomyelitis and this valuable protection can be obtained at clinics or through the family doctor.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the Department.

C. R. HILLIS,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT

Public Health Committee, 1958-1959

Councillor R. A. J. HARVEY (Chairman).

Councillor Mrs. P. B. ARCHER

Councillor Mrs. J. M. LOCKE

Councillor Mrs. E. C. OAKDEN

Councillor W. DRYDEN

Councillor R. P. HIGGS

Councillor W. G. UPTON

Councillor R. WHITLOCK

Public Health Department Staff :

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

Official Address: Manor House, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt,
Herts.

Telephone No. : Waltham Cross 23381

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Public Health Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum
Act, Inspector under the Shops Act :*

C. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

S. C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

G. H. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 27.9.58)

J. L. BILLINGS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 10.11.58)

Refuse Collection Supervisor :

E. K. CLARK (Commenced 14.4.58)

General :

Clerk/Typist :

Mrs. T. ATKINS

Clerk :

R. C. LOCKWOOD (On National Service from 26.9.57)

Miss K. GIDDINGS (Temporary—Commenced 5.8.58)

Rodent Operative : P. F. DEAN

SECTION I

STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1947	21,080	1951	23,290	1955	26,090
1948	21,210	1952	23,880	1956	27,000
1949	21,490	1953	24,670	1957	28,050
1950	22,180	1954	25,350	1958	29,450

Number of inhabited houses on the	1958	1959
rate books (at 31st March) ...	8,869	9,378
Rateable Value	£368,889	£395,264
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£1,483	£1,610 (est.)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	...	132	104	236
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	303	299	602
Illegitimate	...	...	9	7	16
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	7	6	13
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year ² of age:					
Legitimate	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:					
Legitimate	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1954	7.57	1.11	8.40	11.3
1955	7.36	1.11	8.17	11.7
1956	6.19	1.30	8.05	11.7
1957	7.27	1.32	9.60	11.5
1958	8.01	1.34	10.73	11.7

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1954	14.99	0.95	14.24	15.2
1955	14.68	0.95	13.95	15.0
1956	16.93	0.92	15.58	15.7
1957	17.15	0.91	15.61	16.1
1958	20.98	0.90	16.88	16.4 (prov.)

	1957	1958
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt	16.36	20.60

Maternal Mortality, Cheshunt:

Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil	1
---	-----	---

INFANT MORTALITY :

				All infants per 1,000 live births		
				Cheshunt		England and Wales
Year				No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1949	...	...	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	...	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	...	...	...	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	...	...	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	...	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	...	...	12	31.58	25.5
1955	...	...	...	4	10.44	24.9
1956	...	...	...	8	17.51	23.8
1957	...	...	...	7	14.55	23.0
1958	...	...	...	8	12.94	22.5

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate 13.1

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate —

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (under 4 weeks) 6.47

Illegitimate live births % of total live births 2.58%

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 1.58

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1958:

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—

	Male	Female	Total
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	11	—	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	8	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	15	28
Coronary disease, angina	28	12	40
Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	4	10
Other heart disease	11	17	28
Other circulatory disease	3	5	8
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	2	7	9
Bronchitis	10	1	11
Other diseases of respiratory system .	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	12	23
Motor vehicle accidents	2	5	7
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	4	—	4
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes	132	104	236

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday to Friday (inclusive) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 1st Thursday in each month. 2 to 5 p.m.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Friday, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday, 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 9.45 a.m.)

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1958: two shift leaders, eight ambulance drivers, one ambulance, one sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 24878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel. No.: W.X. 24658). Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1958, 57. Cases assisted during 1958, 297.

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt.
Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak. 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30
p.m. Doctor attends.

Community Centre, Edmonton Estate,
Flamstead End. Tuesday afternoon.
Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the
month. (W.X. 25156.)

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street,
Waltham Cross. (Tel.: Waltham Cross
23401.)

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday 9 to
10 a.m.

Mothers' Club—Wednesday evenings.
Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd
and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor
attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic. Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Thursdays 9
a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic and Relaxation
Classes. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 1.45
to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Thursday a.m. and p.m.
Friday a.m. and p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL
NURSES Miss M. N. Hilton, Welfare Centre, High
Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross
23401.)

Mrs. I. Jorgensen, Welfare Centre, High
Street, Waltham Cross.

Mrs. J. P. Wilkins, The Wolery, Carnaby Road, Broxbourne.

Miss J. P. Young, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)

DISTRICT NURSES
AND MIDWIVES

Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 23127.)

Miss M. Smith, 24 Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 23580.)

Miss M. G. Brown, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)

Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead End. (Waltham Cross 23410.)

Miss G. D. Taylor, 1 Prescott Road, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 22344.)

Miss P. Garfield, 81 Barrow Lane, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 23745.)

OTHER SERVICES

BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

A Blood Donor Enrolment Day was held on 19th July, 1958, when 209 new donors responded, bringing the local panel to 530. Eight sessions were held at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross, during the year, and at each session 120 donors attended. New donors are welcome, as the policy now is to ask donors to give blood twice a year only, instead of three times.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49 Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No. : Waltham Cross 23026.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of

Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 24658.

In addition to their normal activities, the local Detachment have available a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, 665 Goff's Lane, Cheshunt.

Invalid food distribution is undertaken by Mrs. Drake, "Bollington," Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Hertford County Hospital. Larger scale facilities are available at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, and the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1947-1951.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

In March, an elderly woman who was living alone and seriously ill was removed to Chase Farm Hospital on an order of a Justice of the Peace as a person in need of care and attention to whom Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, applied. She died in hospital on the day after admission.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year, six bodies were received in the mortuary.

W.V.S. MEALS SERVICE.

A Meals on Wheels service for house-bound people nominated from statutory welfare sources is operated by the W.V.S., the Council paying a subsidy on the cost of the meals.

SECTION III

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1957 and 1958:—

			1957 Cases Notified	1958	
				Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	15	27	—
Measles	...	...	622	66	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	127	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	44	31	6
Erysipelas	...	...	4	6	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	5	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	7	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	7	6	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	...	...	—	2	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	14	16	9
Meningococcal Infection.			1	3	3

MEASLES

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year					Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1949	...	...	...	...	450	20.94
1950	...	...	...	...	22	0.99
1951	...	...	...	...	580	24.90
1952	...	...	...	...	199	8.33
1953	...	...	...	...	660	26.75
1954	...	...	...	...	4	0.16
1955	...	...	...	...	740	28.36
1956	...	...	...	...	58	2.15
1957	...	...	...	...	622	22.17
1958	...	...	...	...	66	2.1

WHOOPING COUGH

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year					Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1949	...	...	...	...	48	2.23
1950	...	...	...	...	130	5.86
1951	...	...	...	...	71	3.05
1952	...	...	...	...	88	3.10
1953	...	...	...	...	247	10.01
1954	...	...	...	...	32	1.26
1955	..	...	...	...	6	0.23
1956	...	...	...	...	98	3.63
1957	...	...	...	...	127	4.53
1958	...	...	...	...	1	0.03

POLIOMYELITIS

Two cases were notified during the year, but in only one case was the provisional diagnosis confirmed. This case was a male in the 10—14 age group and the infection was paralytic. The usual surveillance of contacts was maintained.

FOOD POISONING

There were six cases of food poisoning notified during the year. In only two cases was the causative agent identified and in both cases this proved to be *Salmonella Bovis Morbificans*.

TYPHOID

One case was reported as Typhoid, which after admission to hospital proved to be a viral respiratory disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1958 was 16 compared with 14 cases in 1957.

New Cases, 1958—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 5	1	—	—	—	1
5—15	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	1	3
25—35	1	1	—	—	2
35—45	—	2	1	—	3
45—55	—	—	—	1	1
55—65	2	—	—	—	2
65 upwards	2	2	—	—	4
	8	5	1	2	16

	1957	1958
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt	14	18

There was one death attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1958.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

SECTION IV

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

INSPECTION OF THE AREA,

The Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 2,833 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 701 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	141
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	71
Number of premises other than houses inspected ...	1,119
Premises re-inspected	573
Visits to works in progress	105
Miscellaneous visits	824
	2,833

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools	42
„ „ places of public entertainment	11
„ „ swimming baths	10
„ „ movable dwellings	65
„ re keeping animals	35
„ „ Petroleum Acts	123
„ „ Shops Acts	8
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage ...	192
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections ...	77
„ „ drainage	22
„ „ rats and mice	42

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Nineteen demolition orders and five closing orders were made during the year, bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with by demolition or closing orders since the beginning of 1953 to 136.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area Procedure of the Housing Act, 1957, during the year.

Houses dealt with in 1958 were as follows:—

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Address	Date Order made
7 Waterloo Place, Brookfield Lane	22. 1 .58
8 Waterloo Place, Brookfield Lane	22. 1 .58
Kilsmore Cottage, Kilsmore Lane	26. 2 .58
9 Waterloo Place, Brookfield Lane	26. 2 .58
10 Waterloo Place, Brookfield Lane	26. 2 .58
Leopold Cottage, Newgatestreet Road	26. 2 .58
The Pebbles, Newgatestreet Road	26. 2 .58
Nunsbury Lodge, Tutnford	3. 3 .58
Mill Lane Cottage, Mill Lane, Cheshunt	23. 4 .58
1 Victoria Cottages, Newgatestreet Road	23. 4 .58
2 Victoria Cottages, Newgatestreet Road	23. 4 .58
1 Hatton Road	24. 9 .58
3 Hatton Road	24. 9 .58
5 Hatton Road	24. 9 .58
10 Windmill Lane	26.11.58
12 Windmill Lane	26.11.58
14 Windmill Lane	26.11.58
16 Windmill Lane	26.11.58
18 Windmill Lane	26.11.58

CLOSING ORDERS.

71 Turner's Hill	...	...	...	...	22. 1 .58
89 Longfield Lane	...	...	...	...	26. 2 .58
85 Longfield Lane	...	...	...	...	26. 2 .58
2 High Street, Waltham Cross	...	...	...	...	23. 4 .58
8 Windmill Lane	...	...	...	...	26.11.58

Twenty-five houses were demolished during the year; this number includes houses on which demolition orders were made the previous year.

An undertaking given by the owner of 23 Church Lane was cancelled in October, the work necessary to render the premises fit for habitation having been completed.

RENT ACT, 1957.

Details of applications for Certificates of Disrepair and applications for cancellation of Certificates during the year are as follows:—

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	...	28
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	...	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	...	30
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	...	23
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	...	7
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	...	22
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	...	8
Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	10
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	5
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	...	...	Nil
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	9

HOUSING ACT, 1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Improvement Grants to the value of £903 were made during the year on the following properties:—

29 Longfield Lane.	
51 Albury Grove Road (Begun in 1957—completed 1958).	
140 Hammond Street.	
13 Cecil Road.	
15 Cecil Road.	
8 York Road.	

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	1,408
By the Edmonton Borough Council	... ..	694
By the Tottenham Borough Council	... ..	185
By Private Enterprise	... ..	2,039
		<hr/>
		4,326
		<hr/>

Number of houses erected during 1958:—

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	—
By Private Enterprise	... ..	562
		<hr/>
		562
		<hr/>

OVERCROWDING.

One case of overcrowding was ascertained during the year. This was in a hostel used for horticultural workers. Following informal action, the number of workers occupying the premises was reduced and the overcrowding abated.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	98	55	6	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	105	57	6	—

There is one factory in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 37 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Thirty-two inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

During the year the factories of Messrs. Marrable and Co. Ltd., Delamare Road; Messrs. Douglas Car Sales, 57/63 Eleanor Cross Road, and Messrs. John Rawson Ltd., Britannia Road, were certified under Section 34 of the Act to be provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Under Regulation 5 of the Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, all new applications to the County Council for a licence must be accompanied by a letter from the County District Council stating whether there is any objection on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises.

One new application was dealt with during the year and these premises satisfied the sanitary accommodation code adopted by the Council.

SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	...	10
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	...	...			1
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	...	34
Statutory Notices under Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936, of proposed work of maintenance on sewer					2

SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied :—

Served 1958	...	...	14	Complied with, 1958	...	8
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1957	...	...	Nil	Complied with by Council in default	...	2
				Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1958	...	4
			—			—
			14			14
			—			—

Intimation Notices :—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1957	...	...	...	...	81
Outstanding, 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	...	59
Served during 1958	...	...	...	...	178
Complied with during 1958	...	...	...	...	200

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year the following samples from private water supplies were taken for bacteriological examination :—

	No. of Samples	Result
Theobalds Secondary Modern School	6	Satisfactory.
River Cottage, Halfhide Lane	2	Satisfactory.
Theobalds Park Camping Site	1	Satisfactory.
Lock Cottage, Waltham Cross	1	Satisfactory.
Pollards Nursery, Turnford ...	1	Satisfactory.
Aqueduct Lock House, Cheshunt	1	Unsatisfactory.
Nursery House, Aqueduct Lock, Lea Tow Path, Cheshunt	1	Unsatisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS.

CHESHUNT SWIMMING CLUB.

This swimming pool is privately owned and it is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Five samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were found satisfactory.

THEOBALDS SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL.

This swimming bath is operated on the fill and empty system with water from a chlorinated supply at the school. Supplementary chlorination of the water in the bath is carried out manually. Three samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

The first sample was taken in May and was reported upon as unsatisfactory. After the receipt of this report the bath was emptied, cleansed and chlorinated. The second sample taken in June was reported upon as satisfactory. The third sample was taken in July and was unsatisfactory. Investigations showed the routine chlorination of the bath to be inadequate and arrangements were made for the dosage to be increased.

There are no publicly-owned baths or pools in the area.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Consents under the Hertfordshire Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of 39 movable dwellings at The Willows, Waltham Cross. Provision of drainage and concrete paths to the caravan standings on the site and the construction of additional new sanitary accommodation and clothes washing facilities were completed during the year. The improvement of the clinker surfaces and hard roadways were still in progress at the end of the year. Consents was also renewed in respect of individual caravans on the following sites:—

209 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.
Land occupied by Wood, Bulls Cross Farm.
Springfield Nursery, Crouch Lane.
Pylon Farm, St. James Road.
Tolcarne Nursery, Crouch Lane.
Sicklefield Nursery, Appleby Street.
Lowfield Nurseries, St. James Road.
Highview Farm, Crouch Lane.
Land occupied by Smith, St. James Road.
Lea valley Sand and Ballast Pits, Turnford.
Ousden Nursery, Windmill Lane.

New consents were granted in respect of individual caravans at:—

1 Avenue Cottages, Crescent Road.
Fairmead Nursery, Cuffley Hill.
Lea Valley Sand and Ballast Pits, Turnford.

Individual consents were granted to the occupiers of three caravans on the site at the rear of 12 Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross, and to seven occupiers of individual caravans on the site, 1a, Park Lane, Waltham Cross. Consents under the Act for use of the land at both these sites were issued by the Council in 1938 but no consents to individual occupiers had previously been granted.

Proceedings in respect of movable dwellings at St. Lawrence Farm, Goff's Oak, were brought to a conclusion during the year. On 2nd April, 1958, the occupier was again before the Cheshunt Court and a fine of £5 was imposed and the daily penalty increased from 10s. to £1. The Council was awarded £10 10s. 0d. costs. On 11th June, 1958, the Court ordered the occupier to pay £80 in accumulated daily penalties of 10s. and on 31st December, 1958, an order was made for the payment of £146 for the accumulated daily penalties from 2nd April to 25th August, 1958. The work necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act in relation to the provision of water supply, roads, drains, sewers, sanitary

accommodation and hard standings for five caravans was completed on 25th August, 1958, and in December individual consents were granted by the Council to four of the occupiers.

Individual consents were granted in April to 16 occupiers of caravans at Goff's Oak House, bringing the total number of caravans for which consents have been issued in respect of this site to 23. Seven consents were granted in 1957.

INFESTATION.

Contact insecticides, and where necessary, the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are used to combat infestation.

During the year, assistance of the department was sought to deal with a variety of infestations in or around domestic premises as follows:—

Wasps, 12; Fleas, 2; Flies, 1; Bugs, 1; Ants, 1; Maggots, 1;
Bees, 1.

Where work is undertaken by the department a charge is made.

During the summer there was a recurrence of the infestation by the "Gooseberry or Clover Mite" of houses on the Council's Church Lane Housing Estate and although the mites were not so numerous as in 1957, they were, nevertheless, a considerable nuisance to the occupiers.

This year, for the first time, houses on the Council's Turnford Estate were also affected.

The mites feed on plant juices and migrate from areas of grass into the adjoining dwelling-houses. They are harmless to humans and will not damage furniture or fabrics.

Treatment of the grass areas with suitable insecticides was undertaken at regular intervals with some success but complete control was not obtained.

RODENT CONTROL.

Year ended 31st March, 1959

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Type of Property		Total
			Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total Number of properties ...	7	9,514	130	1,140	10,791
Number of properties inspected	5	1,372	38	48	1,463
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major	—	—	2	3
	Minor	66	12	31	112
Number of properties found to be infested by mice ...	—	23	—	4	27
Number of infested properties treated ...	4	89	12	37	142

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit at Albury Ride. Since the filling of this tipping site is now nearing completion, the Council approved in January arrangements for a gradual change-over to tipping outside the district and in October tipping commenced at Lodge Hollow, Hoddesdon. The two existing Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicles were converted to power press loading and a new vehicle of this type was put into service in October. These three vehicles tip one load each at Hoddesdon every day. The remainder of the refuse is being tipped at the old site at Albury Ride.

In January the Council approved a scheme for the re-organisation of refuse collection and authorised the appointment of a whole-time Supervisor. The Supervisor commenced duty in April and the new scheme was brought into operation in November. The main points of the scheme are that collection is organised on a fixed round basis and the men are released when their day's quota of work is completed. Where any gang is under strength by more than four man-hours on any day, an incentive payment is made equivalent to the number of man-hours lost at current refuse collector's rate, provided the work of the gang is completed without overtime payment. A five-day week is worked throughout the year.

In July the charges for collection of special loads of trade refuse by freighter were increased from 10s. 6d. to £1 1s. 0d. and a charge of 10s. 6d. a load was fixed for trade refuse collected by 12 cwt. van. For trade refuse collected at the time that house refuse is normally collected an annual charge calculated on the basis of 6d. per bin remains unaltered. In March a charge of 5s. per load was fixed for trade refuse delivered direct to the tip.

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales had been deducted was as follows:—

		Year to 31st March		
		1957	1958	1959
Population	...	27,000	28,050	29,450
Net Cost	... ..	£16,194	£18,055	£22,082
Cost per 1,000				
population	...	£600	£643	£749

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills Ltd. for the sale of waste paper and during the year the restriction on deliveries to the mill was eased somewhat. In March the quota was raised from 25 tons per month to 90 tons per quarter all grades, and in July mixed papers and fibreboard containers were freed of restriction as to the quantity sent but the quota of newspapers was reduced to 9 tons per quarter. During the year the Council acquired an electrically operated conveyor type power loader to load baled waste paper for despatch from the salvage depot.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under contract for three years from 1st March, 1957. Nine of these communal bins were stolen during the year and in October three persons were charged before the Cheshunt Magistrates for the theft of kitchen waste from communal street bins. Two of the defendants were fined £1 each and the third was given an absolute discharge.

Details of salvage sales during the year (to 31st March), together with the figures for 1957/58 are as follows:—

		1957/58		1958/59	
		Income	Tonnage	Income	Tonnage
		£		£	
Raw Kitchen Waste		295	234	295	230
Scrap Metal	...	130	7	154	9
Waste Paper	...	2,408	309	2,656	344
Other Salvage	...	411	17	282	12
Totals	...	3,244	567	3,387	595

REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

No new consents were granted during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Two licences to keep pet shops were granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licences.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	45
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	61
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	28
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	19
Chemists	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	77
Cafés, Caterers	...	...	...	...	29
Butchers	...	...	...	...	21
Bakers	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 647 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	194
Butcher Shops	...	..	...	...	...	29
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	53
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	34
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	295

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following food-stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Foods of all description	...	24,067	tins and jars.
Ham	...	...	392 lbs.
Liver	...	...	36½ lbs.
Beef	...	...	68 lbs.
Milk Powder	...	...	30 lbs.
Fish	...	...	140 st.
Chickens	...	...	18

Three complaints were received regarding foreign matter in food which had been sold. One concerned a 1 lb. packet of Puff Pastry which contained a small piece of lean meat. Another concerned a loaf of bread which appeared to have a finger dressing embedded in the loaf. Laboratory examination, however, showed that the foreign matter was thin cardboard with printing on one side, probably a label from a flour sack. In both these cases the Council issued warnings to the firms concerned.

The third complaint related to what appeared to be rodent excreta in a loaf of bread, but on laboratory examination

the foreign matter was found to be mould mycellium and spores, together with starch granules from flour.

One complaint was received regarding mould growth on a meat pie which had been sold and in this case the Council issued a warning to the manufacturer and the retailer.

MILK SAMPLING.

Seven samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

The County Council undertake sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during the year.

MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1958 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	5
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	20
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area, situated at 35 High Street, Cheshunt, and this has been licensed until 31st July, 1959.

One hundred and ninety-four visits were made during the year and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

			Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number known	killed ...	if ...	157	—	10	714	196	—
Number	inspected	...	157	—	10	714	196	—

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :

Whole carcases con- demned ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	14	—	—	2	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	...	8.9	—	—	.28	2.5	—

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcases con- demned ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	6	—	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ...	...	3.8	—	—	—	2.5	—

Cysticercosis :

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, to six applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises	69	53
Food Preparing Premises	23	56
Dairies	4	10

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947-52.

No contraventions were recorded of the Regulations regarding temperature at which ice cream is to be kept or as to protection from contamination.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, by the methylene blue test, and samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 41 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as follows:—

Grade I	37	...	90.24%	} 100%
Grade II	3	...	7.32%	
Grade III	1	...	2.44%	

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50% of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

On this basis the sampling results for the year were satisfactory.

A copy of the laboratory report is sent to the retailer in respect of all samples taken, together with a request that he should not use a favourable report for advertising purposes.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Council are the Food and Drugs authority for the Urban District. During the year 31 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis as follows:—

Sample No.	Article	Sample No.	Article
72	Peanut Butter.	86	Honey.
73	Vegetable Fat.	87	Sweets.
74	Liquid Fruit Pectin.	88	Pure Jersey Cream.
75	Pork Pie.	89	Gluko Juice.
76	Sweets.	90	Superfine Matzos.
77	Chopped Chicken.	91	Medium Pearl Tapioca.
78	Coffee with Chicory Essence.	92	Mushroom Soup.
79	Ground Almonds.	93	Whipping Compound.
80	Coconut Eclairs.	94	Artificial Colouring.
81	Full Cream Evaporated Milk.	95	Lemon Juice.
82	Corn Flour.	96	Cooking Fat.
83	Blackcurrant Syrup.	97	Corn Flour.
84	Chicken and Noodle Soup.	98	Prepared Pea Flour.
85	Asthma & Bronchitis Mixture.	99	Marzipan.
		100	Paprika.
		101	Whipping Compound.
		102	Lemonade.

Sample 83—Blackcurrant Syrup—was found to contain 18% of fruit juice, which the Analyst considered low for a syrup and for a product claiming “Qualite Superieure”. The B.P.C. requirements for Blackcurrant Syrup are that it should contain 45% fruit juice. The Food Standard (Soft Drinks) Order, 1953, prescribes a standard of 10% for any squash, crush, cordial or concentrate containing fruit juice. The Analyst stated that in his view it is quite wrong to regard an article which contains only 10% of fruit juice as a concentrate. Nevertheless this is the inference from the Soft Drinks Order.

The matter was taken up with the manufacturer, who claimed that the product conformed with the Regulations, which in fact it did.

On sample No. 93—Whipping Compound—the Public Analyst reported that the sample contained an emulsifying agent, Penta-erythritol Distearate, which should be regarded with suspicion. The manufacturers were asked whether they had reliable biological data indicating that no risk was involved in the use of this substance and after a lengthy correspondence, in which various evidence in support of the view that this compound is harmless was submitted by the manufacturers, the Public Analyst advised that the matter should not be pursued any further.

Sample No. 102—Lemonade—was submitted for examination following a complaint which alleged that the consumption of part of the contents of the bottle of Lemonade had resulted in sickness. The analyst reported that the contents of the bottle initially had a slight mint-like taste but this rapidly disappeared. Chemical examination of the contents of the bottle for the presence of harmful substances which might give rise to vomiting had entirely negative results. On the suggestion of the Public Analyst, the sample was passed to

the Central Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, together with a similar unopened bottle of Lemonade from the same source, and the laboratory report was that organisms of the Salmonella or dysentery groups or coagulase—positive staphylococci were not found.

All the other samples were reported upon as genuine.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Routine reinspections of food premises were carried out throughout the year. There were no prosecutions under the Regulations.

The majority of food traders show a genuine desire to comply with the regulations, and there is no doubt that considerable progress in food hygiene has been made in recent years.

No new educational activity in food hygiene was undertaken during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

In December the Council considered in principle the question of the establishment of smoke control areas and decided that the matter should be considered again in twelve months time.

The model building bye-law issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was adopted by the Council and came into operation on 1st July, 1958. The bye-law provides for new buildings to be equipped with such appliances only as are suitably designed to burn gas, electricity, coke or anthracite. It does not apply to larger appliances of a capacity of 55,000 B.T.U.s or more per hour, which are controlled by Section 3 of the Act. The bye-law does not

require smokeless fuels to be used but ensures that suitable appliances are installed in new buildings which later may be included in a smoke control area.

The bye-law does not include appliances for the use of liquid fuels but the Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order, 1957, allows for the use of oil-burning appliances in smoke control areas and also has the effect of allowing such appliances to be included among those permitted under the building bye-law.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Adulteration of Food ...	32	Milk Licences ...	29
Ambulance	7	Mortuary	10
Area	3	Movable Dwellings ...	21
Blood Transfusion ...	9	National Assistance Acts, 1947 - 1951	10
British Red Cross Society .	9	Notifiable Diseases ...	11
Clean Air Act, 1956 ...	34	Overcrowding	17
Clinics	8	Pet Animals Act, 1951 ...	27
Day Nursery	7	Poliomyelitis	12
Deaths—Cause of ...	5	Population	3
District Nurses	9	Public Entertainment — Places of	19
Factories Act, 1937 — Means of Escape in case of Fire	19	Refuse Collection and Disposal	25
Factories—Inspection of .	18	Refuse Dumps	27
Food Hygiene Regula- tions, 1955	34	Regional Hospital Board Services	7
Food Poisoning	12	Rent Act, 1957	16
Food Premises—Registra- tion of	31	Rodent Control	24
Health Visitors	8	School Nurses	8
Home Help Service ...	7	Service of Notices ...	19
Housing Act, 1949 — Im- provement Grants ...	17	Slaughterhouses	29
Housing Statistics ...	17	Slaughtermen — Licensing of	31
Ice Cream—Sampling ...	31	Swimming Baths	21
Infestation	23	Tuberculosis	13
Inspection of the Area ...	14	Typhoid	12
Laboratory Facilities ...	10	Unfit Houses	15
Measles	11	Vital Statistics	3
Meat and other Foods ...	27	Water Supply	20
Midwives	9	Welfare Centres	8
Milk—Sampling	29	Whooping Cough	12